

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A light-emitting device comprising:
a light-emitting element;
a case including a cup-like portion having a bottom on
5 which said light-emitting element is mounted;
a sealing member with which said cup-like portion is filled
so that said light-emitting element is covered with said sealing
member; and

10 a low-refractive-index layer having a refractive index
lower than that of said sealing member and formed between said
sealing member and a surface of said case shaping a side surface
of said cup-like portion.

15 2. A light-emitting device according to claim 1,
wherein said low-refractive-index layer is made of a gap between
said sealing member and said surface of said case.

20 3. A light-emitting device according to claim 2,
wherein said gap has an end on an emission observation surface
side, said end being filled with a light-transmissible material.

4. A light-emitting device according to claim 1,
wherein, on the bottom side of said cup-like portion, said
sealing member adheres to said surface of said case.

5. A light-emitting device according to claim 1,
wherein said surface of said case is reflective.

6. A light-emitting device according to claim 1,
5 wherein said sealing member is made of at least one material
selected from the group consisting of silicone resin, epoxy
resin, urea resin, and glass.

7. A light-emitting device according to claim 1,
10 wherein said sealing member contains grains or fine particles
of a light-transmissible material.

8. A light-emitting device according to claim 7,
15 wherein said grains or fine particles are localized on the bottom
side of said cup-like portion.

9. A light-emitting device according to claim 7,
wherein said grains or fine particles have a linear expansion
coefficient smaller than that of said sealing member.

10. A light-emitting device according to claim 1,
wherein said sealing member contains a fluorescent substance.

11. A light-emitting device according to claim 1,

further comprising a lens provided on the emission observation surface side of said light-emitting device.

12. A light-emitting device according to claim 1,
5 wherein said sealing member has a surface on the emission observation surface side, said surface being shaped like a lens.

13. A light-emitting device according to claim 1,
wherein the emission observation surface is covered with a light-transmissible material.

14. A light-emitting device according to claim 1,
wherein said light-emitting element includes at least one Group III nitride compound semiconductor layer.

15. A light-emitting device comprising:
a light-emitting element;
a substrate or lead frame on which said light-emitting element is mounted; and

20 a sealing member with which said light-emitting element is covered, light emitted from said light-emitting element being partially reflected by a surface of said sealing member to thereby be radiated as light in a direction of an optical axis.